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A REVIEW: W. R. MAXON. REPORT UPON A COLLECTION OF FERNS FROM WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA<sup>1</sup>

The ferns referred to in the report here considered were collected in Peru, Chile, and Bolivia, by Dr. and Mrs. J. N. Rose in the latter part of 1914. The special object of the trip was the collection of cacti. Of the twenty-five species listed by Mr. Maxon, twenty-two are ferns and three so-called "fern allies," i. e., equisets and lycopods. Five of the ferns are found to be new species, as follows: *Polypodium*, two, *Cheilanthes*, two, and *Notholaena*, one.

This large proportion of new species is of special interest as an emphasis of the fact that the Andean chain, both in South America and in North America, is probably the most extensive terra incognita of ferns now left to be explored. Every collection from these regions includes numerous new species. Dr. Rose's expedition for cacti naturally took him into regions poor in ferns, but even these yielded over twenty per cent. new species. In the regions of greater rainfall, the moist forested slopes toward the west, not only are there many more species, hundreds indeed, but there are also at least as large a proportion of undescribed forms.

R. C. B.

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### American Fern Society

#### THE SYRACUSE MEETING

A field meeting of the Society was held, as announced, July 13-16, with headquarters at Syracuse, and with a total attendance of about forty. Nine new members were enrolled during the meeting.

The visiting members were very hospitably received. Mr. and Mrs. William Spalding entertained them most

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<sup>1</sup> Smithson. Misc. Coll. 65: no. 8. 1-12. 3 May 1915.

pleasantly at an informal reception, a unique feature of which was the presentation to each guest of a living plant of the hart's-tongue—a cultivated plant, be it known, raised from spores by a florist. The Syracuse Botanical Society provided a picnic luncheon of almost dangerous proportions and attractiveness on the last day of the meeting. On this day, also, what remained of Mrs. Spalding's supply of hart's-tongue plants were set out in favorable places on the State Reservation, in the hope of establishing new stations for this rare fern.

All three days were spent in exploring the region about East and West Green Lakes and White Lake, already described in the announcements of the meeting. This area, small though it is, proved well worth the time spent on it, both for its unusual geological features, and for the richness of its fern flora in number of species and in their intrinsic interest and peculiarities of distribution. A list of the species found follows:

*Polypodium vulgare*, *Phegopteris Dryopteris*, *Adiantum pedatum*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, *Cryptogramma Stelleri*, *Asplenium Trichomanes*, *A. platyneuron*, *A. angustifolium*, *A. acrostichoides*, *A. Filix-femina*, *Scolopendrium vulgare*, *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, *Dryopteris Thelypteris*, *D. noveboracensis*, *D. marginalis*, *D. Goldiana*, *D. cristata*, *D. Clintoniana*, *D. spinulosa*, *D. intermedia*, *Cystopteris bulbifera*, *C. fragilis*, *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, *O. Struthiopteris*, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *O. Claytoniana*, *O. regalis*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, *Botrychium simplex*, *B. ramosum*, *B. obliquum*, *B. dissectum*, *B. ternatum*, var. *intermedium*, *B. onondagense*, *B. virginianum*, *Lycopodium lucidulum*, *L. annotinum*, *L. complanatum*, var. *flabelliforme*, and two hybrids, *Dryopteris Goldiana* × *marginalis* and *D. intermedia* × *marginalis*. A nearly complete set of specimens will be deposited in the Society herbarium.

The Society owes much of the success of the meeting to the hearty interest and co-operation of the local naturalists, members and otherwise. In recognition of this, resolutions were passed, formally thanking Mr. and Mrs. Spalding and the Syracuse Botanical Society for their hospitality; the guides, Mr. Ransier and Dr. Todd, whose accurate knowledge of the Green Lakes region enabled the visitors to see its many points of interest in the most satisfactory way; and the Syracuse newspapers for their full reports of the work done.

The following resolution in regard to the proposed extension of the State Reservation to include all the Green Lakes area was also passed:

Whereas, The region about East and West Green Lakes in Jamesville possesses, in its geological and botanical aspects, a character of unusual interest, including as it does within a limited area an exceptional variety of ferns and other plants, and

Whereas, The acquirement of such areas, where possible, contributes to the health and enjoyment of an increasing number of persons of the present and future generations, and

Whereas, It seems particularly desirable that this area should be acquired before it is in any way despoiled or disfigured through mercantile interests,

Resolved, That in the opinion of the visiting members of the American Fern Society this region is one which should be set aside as a permanent public reservation in its present natural and wild state.

The following communications from different members present may serve to bring out points of special interest and to indicate some of the uses of such meetings.

The thing that impresses me is the fact that there are all over the country people who are interested and would be glad to join the Society if they only knew about it and its work. Our problem is to get the members we have to tell others.

C. H. BISSELL.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Jamesville region was familiar country to me as I had tramped it from boyhood till through college, I was greatly impressed with the large number of species of ferns which we were able to discover in the three days of our Society meeting in July. Of the forty different kinds found I had in my earlier tramps seen all but perhaps three or four kinds, but it was somewhat surprising to have even that number added to your list for your home region. When it is realized that two or three more species are known to occur in the neighborhood and should be added to the list the great richness of the two or three square miles is apparent. Remember, too, that this list includes no lycopods or equisetes, although it does contain two or three hybrids.

Interest is added in this connection to the project which had been agitated for some time in Syracuse, a few miles away, to make the region around East Green Lake a State reservation, not only on account of its fern riches, but because of its generally interesting flora, its great geological distinctiveness, and its natural beauty. In the Society excursions both East and West Green Lakes were visited. As has already been noted in the JOURNAL the region immediately adjacent to the west lake has already been set aside as a State preserve. But the west lake contains nothing in the fern line not found near the east lake and furthermore lacks a considerable number of species which occur about the east lake. Mention made above of finding forty kinds of ferns in two or three square miles, had in mind a strip of land including the west lake but this would be unnecessary. A triangle with the longest side not more than a mile including the east Green Lake and extending to the shores of White and Evergreen Lakes to the east would contain practically all the forty kinds of ferns found.

One of the local newspapers, the Syracuse Post-Standard, suggested that the Fern Society in its field meetings might well determine from the botanical standpoint what the area of the proposed new park should be. As it happens the area the botanist would preserve is practically co-extensive with that which would be desirable from the geological and scenic viewpoints and includes East Green, White, and Evergreen Lakes, the swamps surrounding them, with the cliffs and woodlands which lie to the west and south.

R. C. BENEDICT.

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While visiting the Green Lake region of New York State last July I was interested in noting the apparent effect of the extraordinary ecological conditions upon the relative abundance of the common pteridophytes. To one accustomed to the fields and woods of the average locality in northeastern North America, where the various soil elements have been pretty well mixed together by glacial activity, this region of rock almost exclusively calcitic seems to exhibit a fern distribution somewhat strange and unbalanced.

The almost total absence of Equisetums is not surprising when we consider the prominence of siliceous in the Equisetum anatomy, but the similar absence of Lycopodiums is not so easily explained. In several places the steep talus slopes drop down into sink holes where the air feels distinctly chilly, an indication, possibly, of ice deposits in adjacent caverns, or rock crevices. In one of these "refrigerators," as they were dubbed by some of our party, I found a thick growth of *Lycopodium annotinum* covering an area of several square rods—the only occurrence of this plant that came to my notice during the trip. Perhaps the continuous low temperature served to retard the growth of lime

loving plants that otherwise might have been competitors too strong for the *Lycopodium*.

*Polypodium vulgare* was seen but twice—in one case growing on tree roots and in both stunted. *Dicksonia* was very uncommon, and in order to add *Dryopteris noveboracensis* to our list it was necessary to make a side trip of a mile or more to the very outskirts of the Green Lake country. In the open woods and clearings where these species were to be looked for *Cystopteris bulbifera* held undisputed sway.

Of the three *Athyrium*s *A. filix-femina* was least abundant. But as has been recorded of many other localities, so here *A. angustifolium* was always found associated with *Dryopteris goldiana*.

E. J. WINSLOW.

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THE CALIFORNIA MEETING—A meeting of the American Fern Society was held at 2 P. M., August 2, in the Herbarium of the University of California. The meeting was announced in the A. A. A. S. program, so, although but few members of the Society were present, a number of botanists attended, making twenty in all. An excellent paper on Southern California Ferns was presented by the well-known California botanist, Mr. S. B. Parish of San Bernardino. An interesting discussion of the paper followed, participated in by Prof. F. E. Clements of Minnesota, Prof. E. B. Copeland of the Philippine Islands, Dr. R. M. Harper of the Florida State Geological Survey, and others. We were very sorry not to have some of the eastern members with us. If any members visit California later we shall be glad to be of service to them in any way we are able.

CARLOTTA C. HALL.

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The fern garden of the Society, suggested in the last issue of the JOURNAL, was actually begun at the Brook-

lyn Botanic Garden in July with two plants collected at the central New York field meeting. The plants sent were *Dryopteris Goldiana* and *D. intermedia*  $\times$  *marginalis*. These and others received later were placed in rotted leaf mould under trees to await the construction of a specially designed bed.

Further shipments were received of plants from the Adirondacks and from Vermont and others are expected or may already have arrived. Members are urged to send in not only rarities but common species, and without fear as to duplication, as plants of the same species from different localities are always interesting. Where possible large sods or large single specimens should be sent. Transplanting will be safe even up to frost time if considerable soil is included and the roots well packed. A list of species received will be published later.

When the plan for a Society fern garden became known, the excellent suggestion was made that such a garden would be accessible to many more people and so of greater usefulness, if it could be put into the plural—that is, if collections of living plants were maintained, not only at Brooklyn, but in different parts of the country. Some effort has been made in this direction. The Botanic Garden of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., has agreed to receive and cultivate plants sent in, on the same terms as the Brooklyn garden; and a beginning has already been made there. It is hoped that similar arrangements may be made with other botanic gardens.

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New Members—Dana S. Carpenter, Middletown Springs, Vt.; Miss Una G. Dawson, 97 Mountfort St., Boston, Mass.; W. R. Dunlop, Fayetteville, N. Y.; Edwin T. Emmons, Geneva, N. Y.; Henri Gadeau de



Kerville, Rouen, France; Frederic W. Grigg, P. O. Box 43, Newtonville, Mass.; Miss M. L. Hall, 130 Spring St., Rochester, N. Y.; Mrs. Mary B. Hummel, 3632 Powelton Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.; Prof. F. P. McFarland, 703 South Limestone St., Lexington, Ky.; Thomas H. Mather, 108 Comstock Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.; Dr. George T. Moore, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo.; Miss Minnie L. Overacker, 109 Robineau Road, Syracuse, N. Y.; Prof. Ida L. Reveley, Wells College, Aurora, N. Y.; Miss Louise W. Roberts, 520 Roberts Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.; Miss Ida H. Stebbins, 52 Albe-marle St., Rochester, N. Y.; Rev. J. H. Stolz, 211 Cedar St., Gary, Ind.; Dr. J. B. Todd, 740 South Beech St., Syracuse, N. Y.; Miss Alice W. Wilcox, Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury, Vt. Changes of Address—Walter H. Aiken, 1520 Aster Place, Cincinnati, O.; Dr. Ruth Marshall, Northern Illinois State Normal School, De Kalb, Ill.; Rev. George L. Moxley, 626 W. Ave. 54, Los Angeles, Cal.; Charles O. Rhodes, Lock Box 366, Groton, N. Y.

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The annual election resulted in the re-election of the present officers and in very large majorities for all three of the proposals laid before the members. The report of the Judge of Elections will be printed with the annual reports, in the next number of the JOURNAL.

C. A. WEATHERBY, *Secretary*.